



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration / 500 West Temple Street / Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

#### MEMBERS

Carol L. Rose  
**Chair**

Walter P. Coombs  
**Vice Chair**

Clifton W. Albright  
Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Bertrum M. CeDillos  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Janice Kamenir-Reznik  
Neal S. Millard  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

### MINUTES OF THE 647TH MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 647<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on January 15, 2004, in Room 864 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those in attendance follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carol Rose, Chair  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Sylvia Scott Hayes

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Clifton W. Albright  
Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Bertrum M. CeDillos  
Janice Kamenir-Reznik  
Robbi J. Work

#### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Larry Mason, District Attorney's Office  
Honorable Dennis Zine, Independent Cities Association

#### **CITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Lt. George Bush, L.A.P.D.

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Bea Deuringer, District Attorney  
Sgt. Bruce Haar, LASD  
Garet Little, Superior Court  
Captain Massee, LASD  
Honorable John H. Sandoz, Superior Court  
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court  
Pat Zabarro, CCJCC

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Dedie Ward  
Nyla Jefferson

### **GUESTS**

Steven Ipsen, ADDA  
Mike Brown, CHP

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rose called the 647<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:30 p.m. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex-Officio Members, Staff, and guests followed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2003 AND NOVEMBER 20, 2003**

Approval of the minutes were postponed pending a quorum.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### **Update on Child Waiting Room in Clara Foltz Justice Center**

Larry Mason, District Attorney's Office, reported that County Building and Safety officials have determined that the room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Clara Foltz Justice Center which was previously being considered for a child waiting room is unacceptable for that purpose. In the event of an evacuation, it is felt that exiting from the seventh floor could pose some safety risks for children. At this time, there are no other rooms available in the justice center and the search to find a room in another building continues.

It was noted that there are other child waiting rooms in operation that are located on high floors. It was suggested that the Commission should survey the personnel in those child waiting rooms to find out if the placement of the room is problematic or a cause of concern for them.

#### **Public Comment**

Steve Ipsen, Association of Deputy District Attorneys (ADDA), gave an accounting of an incident that occurred in a courtroom earlier this year which later caused some concerns for court officials as well as the public. Following a question and answer period, Commissioners were advised that due to the lack of a quorum, they were not allowed to take any action on this issue because it was not on the meeting agenda. In addition, Commissioners were advised that they were not allowed to speak to their respective Supervisors, Justice Deputies or send any correspondence to anyone regarding this matter.

### **REPORT ON COURT RECORDING COSTS**

Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Courts, was requested by the Commission to provide statistics outlining the costs to the Courts to employ court reporters versus the costs to use electronic recording equipment or other technology to record a case. Ms. Venhuizen reported that the costs to employ court reporters was \$96,580.00 annually (which included benefits), and for Electronic Recording Monitors and Video Recording, \$48,732.00 annually (including benefits).

Video taped court proceedings require hiring additional personnel and there have been numerous problems with transcription preparation, therefore, electronic recording monitors are also used.

### **UPDATE ON PROPOSED "ANATOMY OF A CRIMINAL CASE" TOUR**

This item has been postponed and will be placed on a future agenda.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Report on JPC Foundation**

Commissioner Jackson reported that the Board of Supervisors has authorized the Commission's request for the establishment of a donation trust fund. The Committee can now move forward with setting up the trust fund and begin soliciting sponsors for donations. Funds from the trust will be used to support programs and services for children and families and also offer financial assistance to proposed child waiting room projects that have been stalled due to financial needs. Commissioner Jackson has already made the initial contact with the Junior League of Los Angeles as a prospective sponsor, and will follow up with a formal donation request letter.

Councilman Zine offered suggestions for some other organizations which could be solicited for funds which included various law enforcement associations and the Department of Airports. Mr. Steve Ipsen added that the District Attorney's Association has a new "DA Badge" merchandizing line which will donate 50% of the profit from merchandise sales towards charitable ventures, good works and employee assistance. Mr. Ipsen advised that he would check with the association to determine if donating to the trust fund would be a possibility.

#### **Child Custody Exchange Committee**

Judge Sandoz reported that the Committee is continuing to work on plans to establish the child custody exchange centers. The community organization, Bienvenidos, has offered to assist the Committee with getting the centers open, and will also provide resources for capable people experienced in custody exchanges to manage the centers. The exchanges would be able to occur in a safe environment conducted by experienced staff with minimal involvement or interference to the operation of the station. The Sheriff's Department has indicated that they are very enthusiastic about

the project and look forward to participating, and the City of Los Angeles has generously donated two computers with printers and other equipment for use at the center. At this time, the Committee is working to get the Los Angeles Police Department to participate in the project.

Commissioner Scott-Hayes asked Judge Sandoz what type of outreach is being done to contact other agencies that may be interested in assisting or becoming involved with the program. Judge Sandoz commented that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 28 and he will bring this issue up with the committee members.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Millard announced that he recently attended a luncheon where the Self Help Legal Access Center and Child Waiting Room programs were mentioned among the outstanding accomplishments of the court this year.

### **Court Overtime**

Councilman Zine reported that he has met with District Attorney Cooley to address the issue of court overtime for officers. A letter will be sent out to all local agencies and courts requesting assistance with coming up with ideas and suggestions on methods to streamline the overtime hours for officers in courts.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Rose introduced Mike Brown, Chief of the Southern Division of the California Highway Patrol. Chief Brown gave an overview on the agency's operations, stating that the current budget of the Highway Patrol is approximately \$1 billion annually. The department employs 10,000 people statewide and is divided into eight divisions. Eighteen hundred people are assigned to Los Angeles, and of the 1,800, 1,100 provide a variety of non-traditional services, in addition to patrolling the highways.

The Southern Division has the largest number of personnel because of the services it provides. In addition to traffic duties, the agency also provides 911 cell service. Last year, the department answered 3.2 million calls in Los Angeles County.

The Highway Patrol, along with Cal Trans, is also responsible for plotting the volume of traffic throughout Los Angeles County. All traffic monitoring and updates which are televised on local news stations are generated from the department's Joint Traffic Management Center.

The Highway Patrol has been affected by State budget cuts and has lost a number of uniformed officer positions and more reductions are projected to occur this year. The department has also begun to eliminate collateral assignments that are not related to traffic, patrol or mandates, and will assume more non-traditional roles. The executive investigative functions which were formerly being performed by personnel in other state departments will now be merged with the duties of the Highway Patrol. If the department continues to lose road assets it will mean less officers will be in the field writing citations which will result in a loss of revenue in fines and bail schedules.

Following the question and answer period, Chair Rose thanked Chief Brown for his informative presentation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.